

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that an Abstract must be provided on a separate page. It is noted that an Abstract Of The Disclosure was submitted on a separate page with the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application on August 3, 2006.

In accordance with the requirement of the Examiner, a replacement Fig. 1 identified as PRIOR ART is submitted herewith.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled and claim 10, line 2, has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to change "consist of" to --comprises--.

Also, the specification has been amended on page 1 to indicate that "fix" means "connect", and "reversibly" means "removably".

It is submitted that new independent claim13 and all of the amended dependent claims 6-12 and 14-17 are in proper form and obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-12, as best understood by the Examiner, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawyers (note especially Figs. 2-6) or Guillot (note especially Fig. 5). For the reasons set forth hereinafter, it is submitted that new independent claim13 and all of the amended dependent claims are not rendered obvious by the teachings of the cited references, taken individually or in combination.

New claim 13 and all of the dependent claims now recite an arm (1) for a sofa with a metallic frame (2) having at least one bayonet coupling (3) by which the arm (1) is connected to the metallic frame (2) of the sofa, characterized in that the arm (1) comprises means constructed to connect it removably to the frame (2) of the sofa, the connecting means comprising an L-shaped body (4) connected to one of the elements (3', 3'') of the bayonet coupling (3), the portion of the body (4) that protrudes with respect to the surface of the arm (1) or with respect to the surface of the frame (2) having a through hole; locking means (5) connected to the frame (2) of the sofa or the arm (1); and a screw (6) constructed to be inserted into the through hole of the L-shaped body (4) and into the locking means (5) to connect the body (4) to the frame (2) of the sofa. This novel combination of elements is not shown or suggested in the cited references.

Neither Sawyers nor Guillot discloses Applicant's novel construction for removably connecting an arm to the metallic frame of a sofa using a screw inserted into the through hole of the L-shaped body (4) and into the locking means (5) connected to the metallic frame (2) of the sofa or the arm (1) to thereby connect the L-shaped body (4) to the metallic frame of the sofa. Sawyers discloses sectional seating furniture whose parts have wooden frames and are fixed to each other by wood screws screwed into the wooden frames. There is no disclosure in Sawyers of a metallic frame or Applicant's novel L-shaped body that is connected to the metallic frame of the sofa by a screw inserted into locking means.

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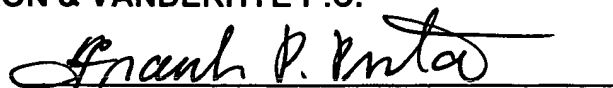
Guillot discloses a frame assembly for modular furniture wherein the parts are assembled by bayonet-like coupling means where both elements of the coupling means have an L-shaped body and the locking means are integral with one of the L-shaped bodies, as shown in Figs. 3-4 and 5. The L-shaped bodies of Guillot are secured to each other and surround the metal channel 22. This is significantly different from Applicant's novel construction wherein an L-shaped body connected to one of the elements of the bayonet coupling is connected by a screw to the metallic frame of the sofa by cooperating with a locking means connected to the metallic frame of the sofa or the arm of the sofa, as recited in all of the amended claims herein. Accordingly, Guillot clearly fails to render obvious Applicant's novel construction for removably connecting a sofa arm to a sofa frame.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims, as amended herein, are allowable to Applicant, and formal allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Frank P. Presta

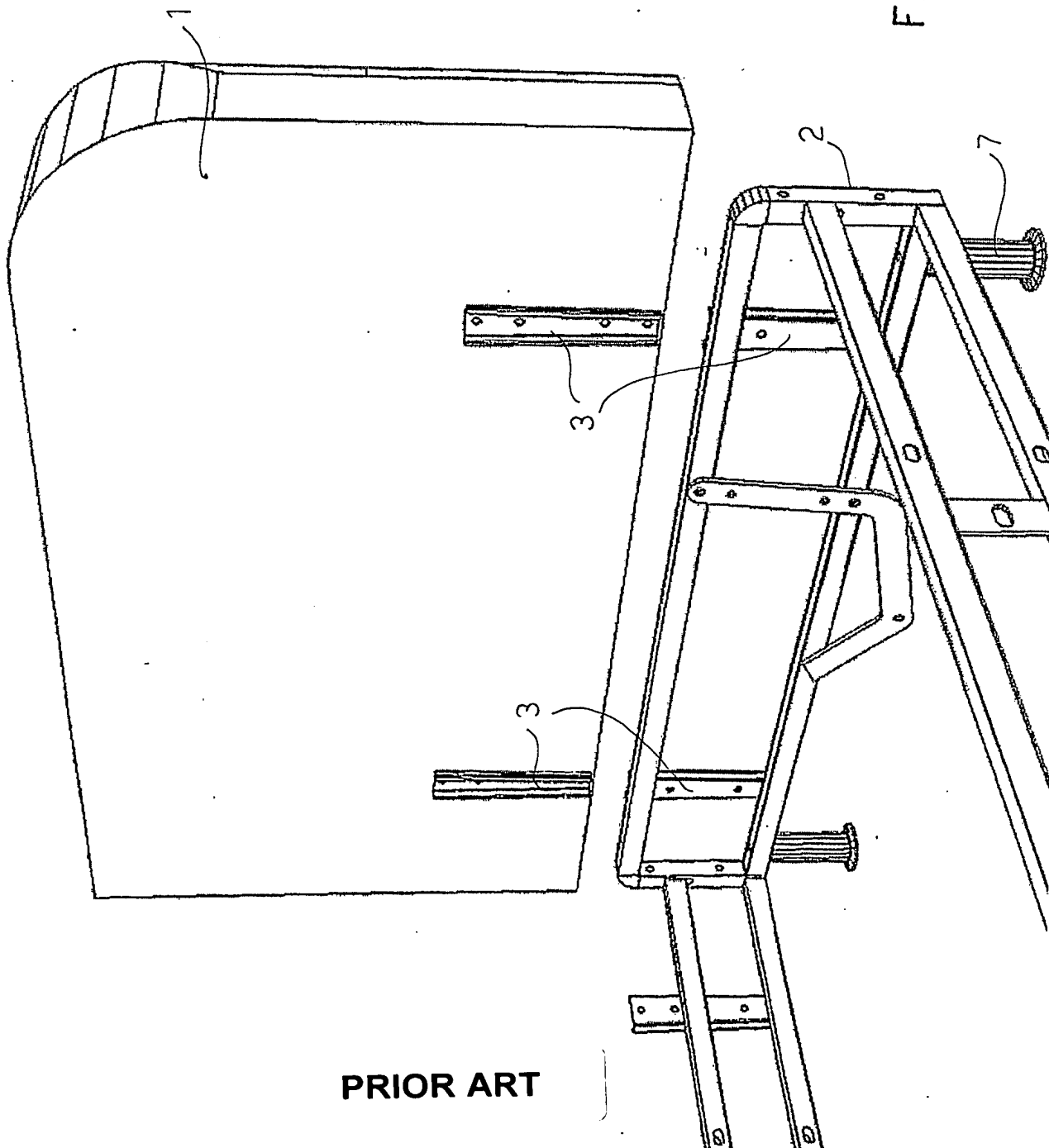
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FIG. 1



PRIOR ART